



OLYMPIA CITY HALL

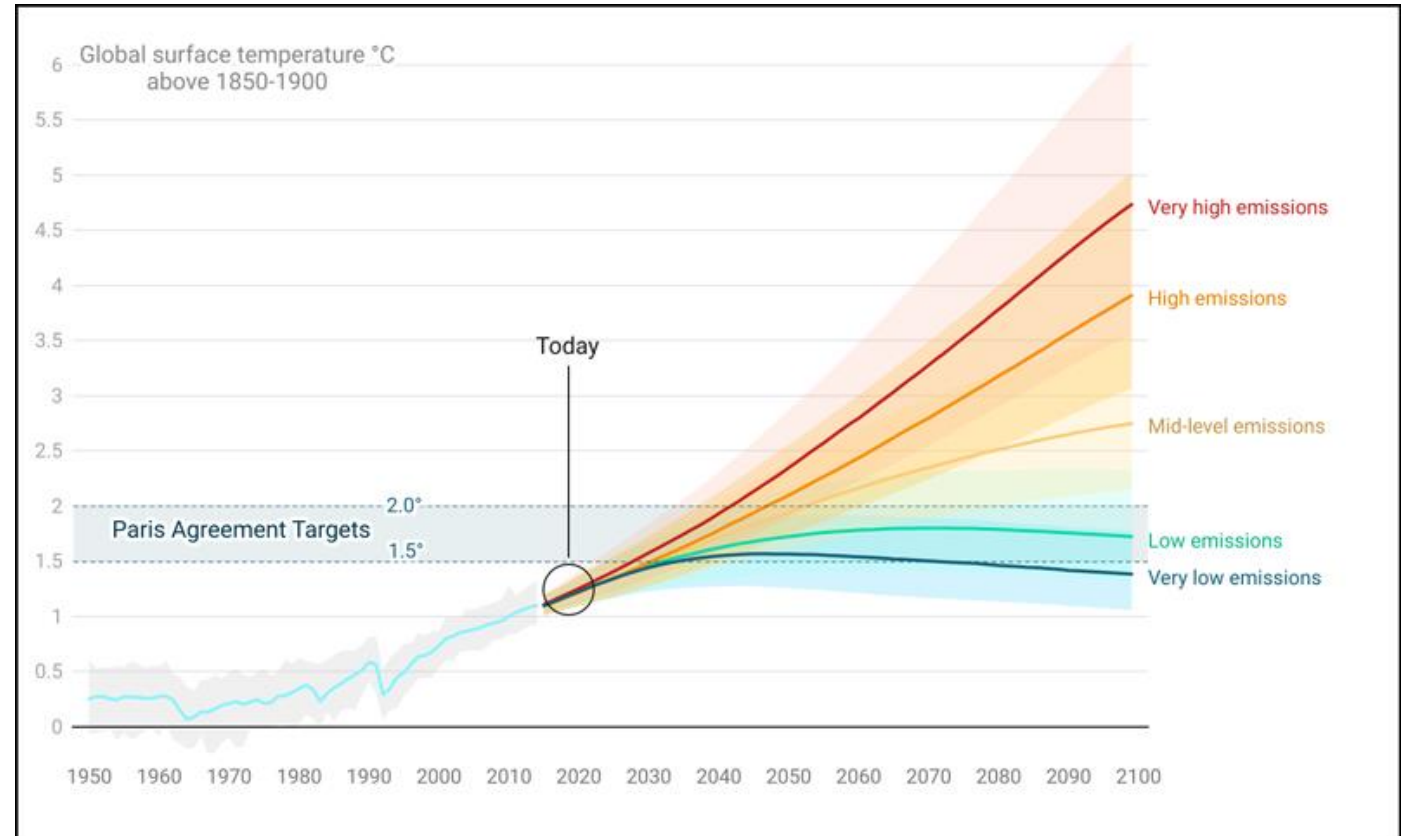
Climate Action Update

Olympia Utility Advisory Committee
September 2, 2021

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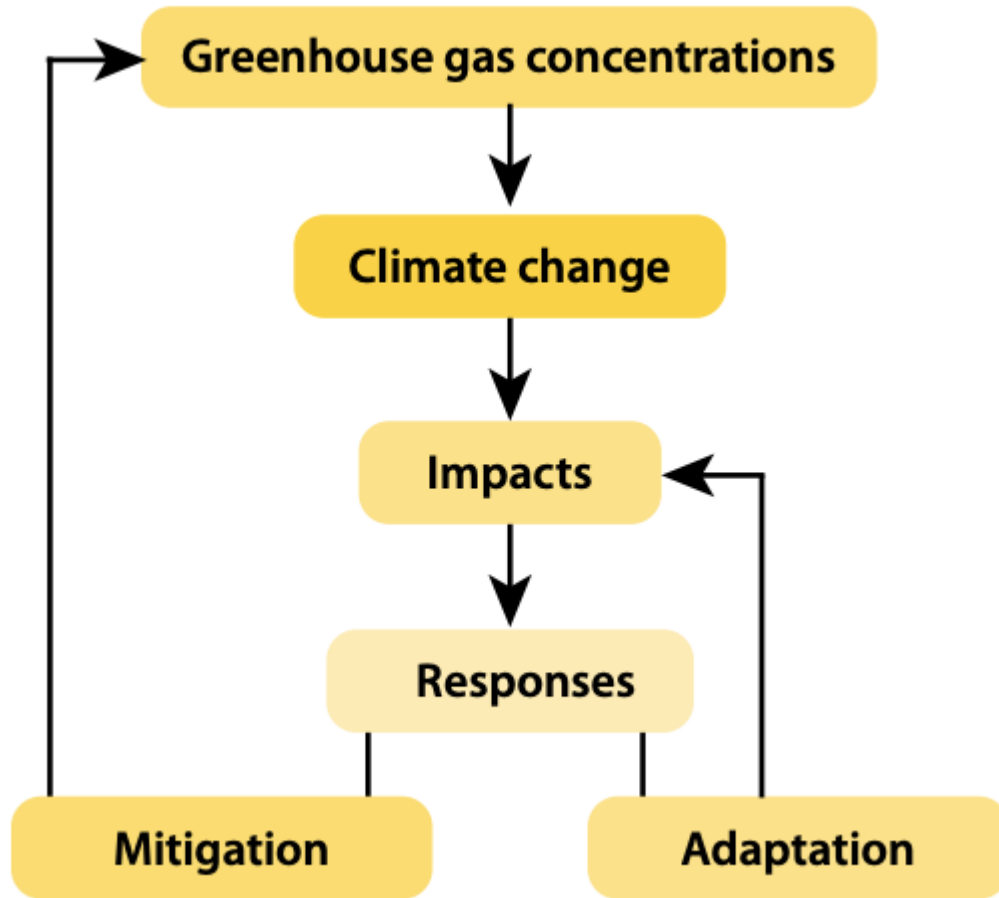
IPCC Sixth Assessment Report

1. Humans are causing rapid and widespread warming.
2. Climate change is already affecting every region on earth.
3. Avoiding the worst impacts is still possible, but only rapid and steep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.



Credit: Jenessa Duncombe. Source: IPCC (2021)

Adaptation and mitigation are necessary.



- **Mitigation** addresses the causes of climate change - reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Adaptation** addresses the impacts of climate change – reducing vulnerability and increasing community resilience.

Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan

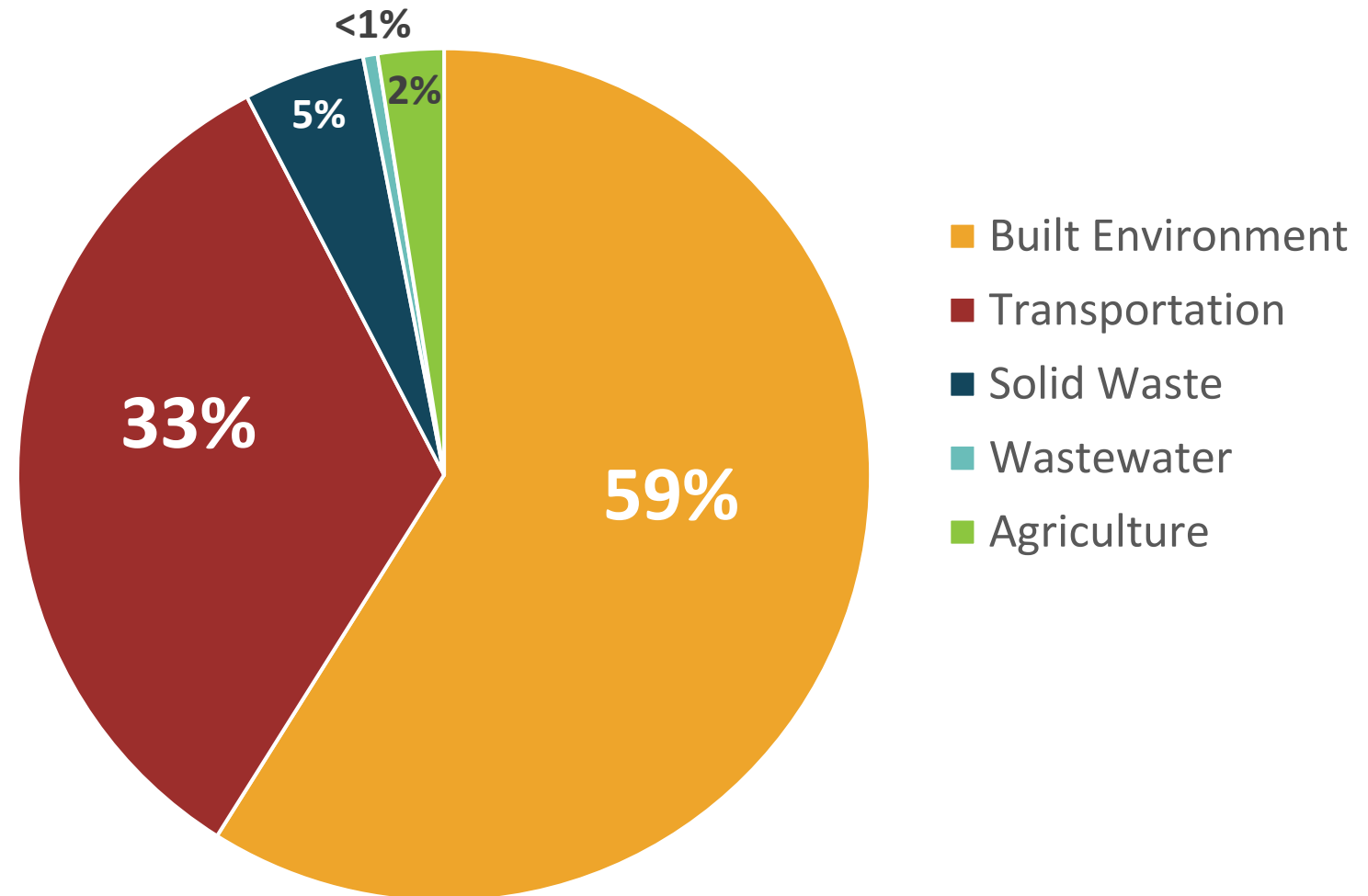
Regional framework for climate action.

Thurston County Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**Total
Emissions:**

3.2 million

metric tons of carbon
dioxide equivalent
(MTCO₂e)

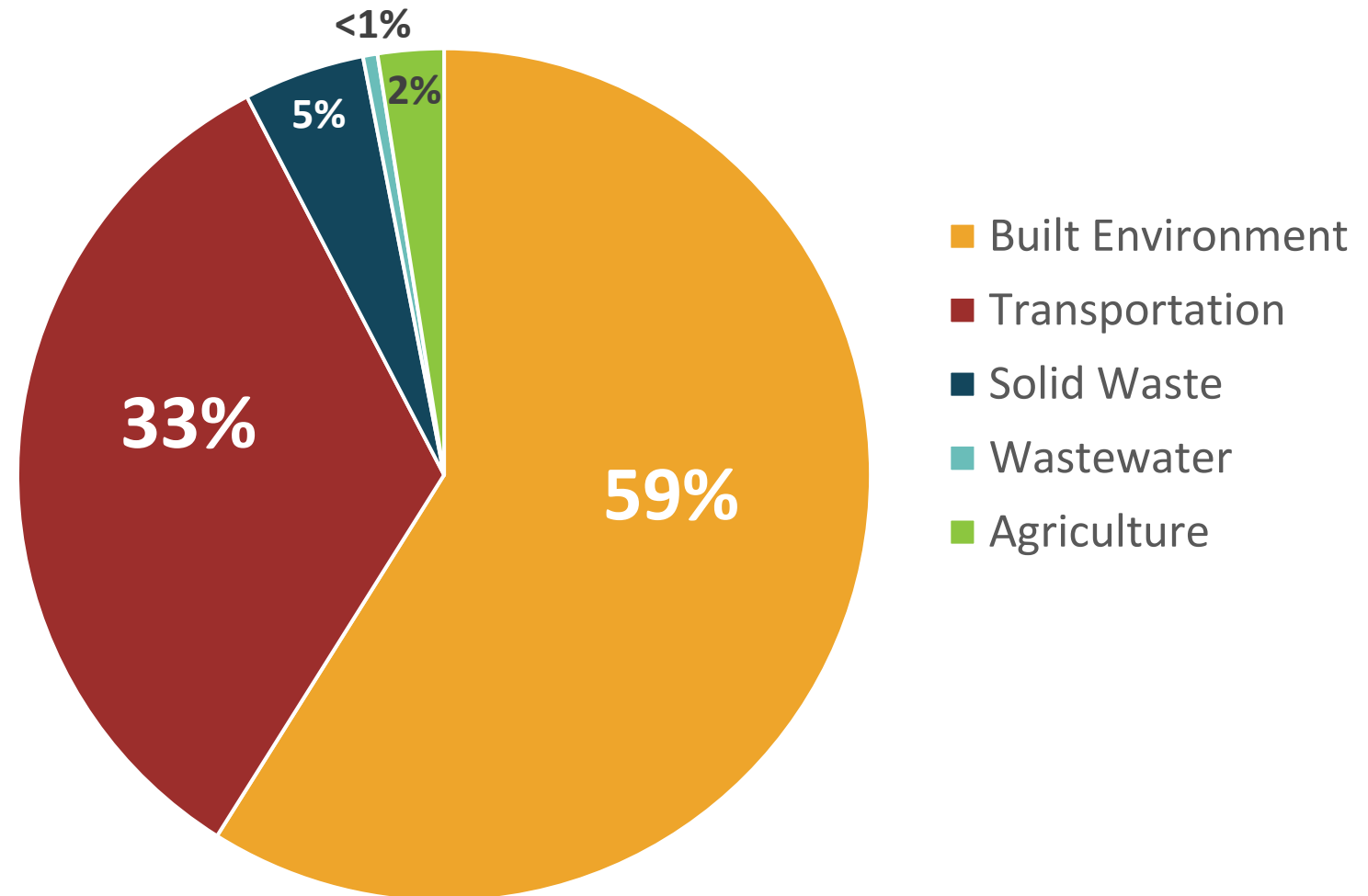


Thurston County Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Regional Targets:

45% below 2015 levels by 2030

85% below 2015 levels by 2050

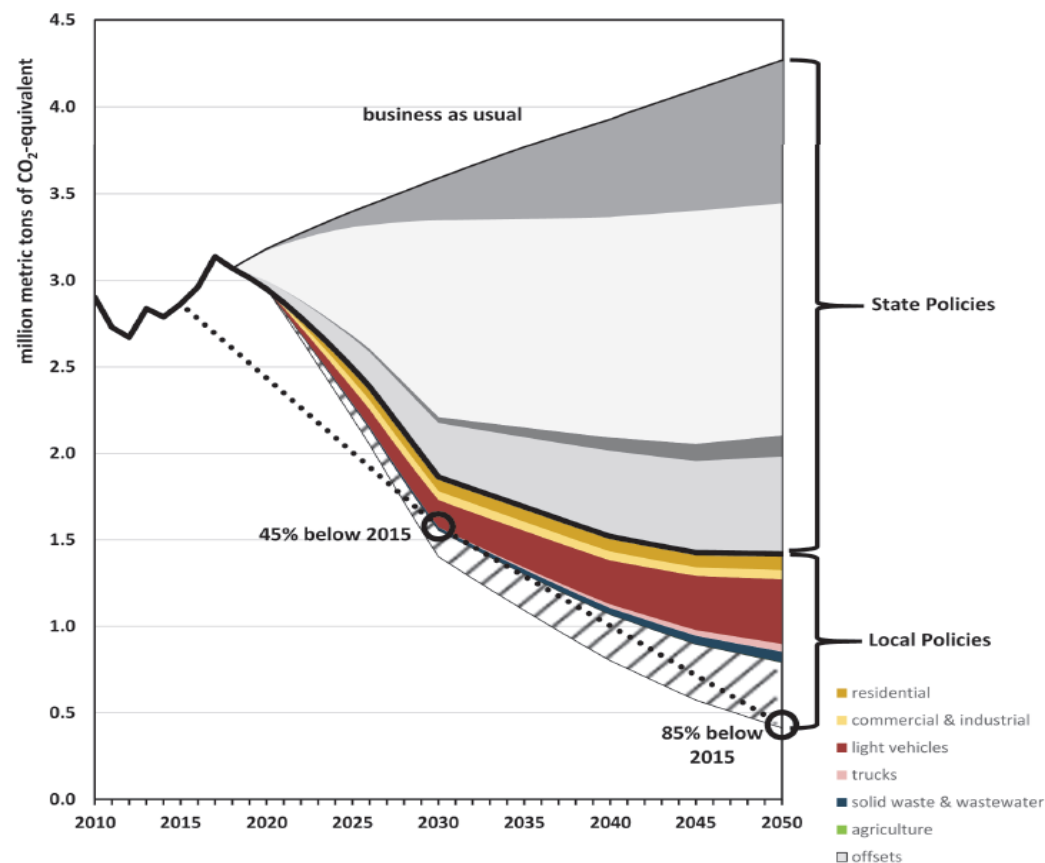


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45% below 2015 levels by 2030

85% below 2015 levels by 2050



Potential reduction in Thurston County emissions from state policies and local actions.

Climate Mitigation Framework

Equitable distribution of costs and benefits

Green our Grid

- Support state-level action to generate electricity with 100% renewable sources
- Increase energy efficiency of homes and businesses
- Make it easier to install renewables on homes and businesses

Shift Energy Sources

- Switch more appliances, heaters, and vehicles to electricity
- Make it easier to charge electric vehicles in homes and around town

Live Lighter

- Create denser urban neighborhoods where more people can opt to drive less
- Make it easier to telework, walk, bicycle, and ride transit
- Reduce food and other waste

Store Carbon

- Plant trees and preserve tree canopy
- Preserve farmland and increase regenerative agriculture practices
- Preserve and enhance prairies

Build Local Capacity & Resilience

- Provide coordinated leadership on climate action
- Monitor greenhouse gases and assess progress
- Develop expertise in climate-forward practices
- Factor climate impacts into funding and decisions
- Support the development of a green economy
- Further understand and address social equity issues related to climate change

BUILDINGS AND ENERGY

Energy Efficiency

- Prioritize high-efficiency building envelopes.
- Increase efficiency of appliances.

Building Electrification

- Phase out fossil fuels for heating and cooking.

On-site Solar

- Increase the production of local solar energy.

TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE

Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT)

- Set land use policies that support increased urban density and efficiency transportation networks.
- Increase the use of public transit and active forms of travel such as walking and biking.

Vehicle Electrification

- Increase the adoption of electric vehicles.
- Increase the availability of EV charging infrastructure.

SOLID WASTE AND WASTEWATER

Solid Waste

- Reduce solid waste generation
- Increase diversion of food waste to composting.

Wastewater

- Increase efficiency of water and wastewater infrastructure.
- Reduce emissions from wastewater treatment operations.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Forest and Ecosystem Management

- Protect and restore existing forests, prairies, and marine ecosystems.
- Increase forest cover where it is ecologically appropriate.

Regenerative Agriculture

- Increase agricultural practices that sequester carbon.

Forest GHG Accounting

- Calculate annual GHG emissions and removals from forests and trees

CAPACITY BUILDING

Staff Expertise

- Establish cross-departmental Climate Action Team.
- Develop and adopt a climate and climate equity lens for policy, planning, and funding decisions.

Regional Coordination

- Support regional coordination and implementation of the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan.

Monitoring and Assessment

- Monitor GHG emissions, key performance indicators, and implementation progress.



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Questions?

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